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[redacted] Two artillerymen with rifles across their shoulders were seen walking. At Lechta Khan (sic)¹ traffic policemen of the artillery and officers and men of the artillery were seen near houses next to the road. Across the fields, a group of soldiers were observed and on a wooded ridge there were two camouflaged 76.2 mm. cannons under the trees. Between Lechta Khan and Ikhtiman, horse-drawn carts and trucks loaded for the most part with artillerymen were seen. [redacted]

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[redacted] As far as Ikhtiman, traffic was handled by artillerymen. At Ikhtiman, soldiers from the infantry, engineers, and signal corps were observed. Road police were infantrymen. At a distance several kilometers from Ikhtiman, there was a very high, caterpillar-track vehicle, armed with a long barrel and resembling an obsolete type of self-propelled gun. No further military observations were made between Ikhtiman and Sofia.

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[redacted] Comment: Maneuvers which started on 2 October 1954 or earlier were still in progress on 8 October 1954. These maneuvers appear to have had as their problem an advance on the Sofia-Plovdiv axis, since the center of gravity stretched from Vakarel to Ikhtiman, Lechta Khan (sic), Momin Prakhod (sic), and Kostenets. It is not known if the maneuver area went beyond Kostenets. The visible front does not extend more than one kilometer from the road. The arms represented were the infantry, artillery, and signal corps. No armored vehicles were observed other than the obsolete self-propelled vehicle listed in Para. 4 above. No airplanes took part in these maneuvers. It is possible that the column identified on 27 September 1954 and originally observed on 26 September 1954, was to take part in these maneuvers since it was headed in the direction of Ikhtiman. Because of its composition, it certainly was not a part of the Samokov garrison, at least not in its entirety. On 6 October 1954, a train composed of approximately 50 cars loaded with troops was observed on the railway track to the north of Plovdiv. The maneuvers reported on above definitely consist of an offensive action by the 1 Bulgarian Army, with the 2 Bulgarian Army being the enemy. Attacks on the flanks of the 1 Army were allegedly to be made to the north and to the south of the Sofia-Plovdiv axis.

1. [redacted] Comment: Possibly Peshe Khan (N 42-24, E 23-53)

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